

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 PA-02 PRS-01 /019 W

-----141254Z 041815 /43

R 141211Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3394

INFO USDOC WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 KHARTOUM 0142

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SU

SUBJECT: U.S. PARTICIPATION IN KHARTOUM INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

JANUARY 19-27, 1978

REF: 76 KHARTOUM A-51

SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FORMAL INVITATION PARTICIPATE IN KHARTOUM INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION. DESPITE ANTICIPATED LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS PARTICIPATION WOULD ENTAIL, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS POSITIVE REPLY. SIGNIFICANCE AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL OF SUDAN AND ARAB DETERMINATION MAKE ENORMOUS INVESTMENT IN SUDAN'S AGRICULTURE CALL FOR INCREASED ATTENTION BY US TO TRADE PROMOTION POSSIBILITIES HERE. IN ADDITION, ON HEELS DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL POLITICAL RELATIONS, GOS PROBABLY WOULD CONSIDER US NON-PARTICIPATION POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS KHARTOUM INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION SUGGEST DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY AND INGENUITY WILL BE NECESSARY, AND EMBASSY URGES USDOC AND USIA WORK TOGETHER TO ASSURE SUCCESSFUL AMERICAN PARTICIPATION. END SUMMARY

1. EMBASSY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED REPLY TO REFERENCED

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AIRGRAM WHICH REQUESTED DETERMINATION OF KIND OF USG PARTICIPATION WHICH MIGHT BE FEASIBLE AND WHAT USG RESOURCES COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THIS EXHIBITION. EMBASSY HAS NOW RECEIVED FORMAL INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE. WE HAVE REPLIED THAT POSSIBILITY OF USG PARTICIPATION BEING DISCUSSED WITH USDOC AND THAT FONOFF WILL BE INFORMED OF OUR

DECISION.

2. WE RECOMMEND PARTICIPATION FOR SEVERAL REASONS. FOREMOST IS TRADE PROMOTION. GIVEN AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL AND ARAB DETERMINATION TO MAKE ENORMOUS INVESTMENT IN SUDAN'S AGRICULTURE (SEE 76 KHARTOUM A-101), SUDANESE MARKET MAY PROVIDE MOST IMPORTANT AGRI-BUSINESS TRADE OPPORTUNITY OF COMING DECADE. THEREFORE, WE SEE TREMENDOUS SALES POTENTIAL FOR AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES PLUS CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT. SECOND, USG RELATIONS WITH GOS RECENTLY HAVE IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY. FOLLOWING PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S VISIT TO US, GOS OFFICIALS HAVE CONSISTENTLY STRIVED TO INTEREST AND ATTRACT AMERICAN FIRMS. GOS, WHICH ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THIS EXHIBITION, PROBABLY WOULD CONSIDER US NON-PARTICIPATION POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT. EMBASSY STRONGLY DESIRES USG PARTICIPATION FOR COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL REASONS. PAO RECOMMENDS USIA PLAN FOR USIS COOPERATION.

3. DETERMINING PROPER MODE OF US PARTICIPATION MAY BE DIFFICULT. PARTICIPATION CRITERIA FOR COMMERCIAL PRESENCE FAIRS PROGRAM (NOW DEFUNCT?) DO NOT SEEM APPROPRIATE OR REALISTIC. STOCKING DISTRIBUTORSHIPS FROM WHICH MATERIALS FOR DISPLAY COULD BE DRAWN FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES DO NOT EXIST AND VERY FEW AMERICAN COMPANIES ARE REPRESENTED BY MORE THAN LOCAL AGENTS,, THOUGH WE WOULD TRY TO GET AS MUCH COOPERATION AS POSSIBLE. LOCAL FAIR PROCUREMENT AT BEST WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED

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VERY LIMITED. IN SUM, MOUNTING AN EFFECTIVE COMMERCIAL EXHIBITION PROBABLY WOULD REQUIRE SCALE OF EFFORT DEVOTED TO CLASS I EXHIBITION WITH LESS THAN NORMAL LEAD TIMES.

4. POSSIBLY USG COULD PARTICIPATE WITHOUT IMPORTING EXHIBITION SYSTEM (LOCAL CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH SYSTEM IMPOSSIBLE). SUDAN EXHIBITION AND FAIRS CORPORATION HAS CONTRACTED WITH EXHIBIT CONSULTANTS LTD. (UK) FOR "OCTANORM" SHELL SYSTEM FOR EXHIBITORS WHO DO NOT WISH TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN EXHIBIT SYSTEM IN INDOOR EXHIBITION AREAS FOR ADDITIONAL \$30 PER SQUARE METER.

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USIA WASHDC

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INCIDENTALLY, SAME CONTRACTOR DESIGNED EXHIBITION SPACE AND WILL ASSIST WITH FAIR ADMINISTRATION. SUFFICIENT OCTANORM SHELLS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED FOR ONE OF TWO 2,500 SQUARE METER EXHIBITION HALLS WHICH PROBABLY WILL BE COMPLETED BY OPENING. ONE ADDITIONAL 2,500 SQUARE METER PAVILION PROBABLY WILL BE NEAR COMPLETION AT THAT TIME AND FAIR AUTHORITIES CLAIM IT WILL BE USABLE.

5. LOGISTICS FOR PARTICIPATION WOULD BE COMPLICATED. AS MENTIONED ABOVE, MOST EXHIBITOR PROCUREMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE PERFORMED BY USDOC. SIMILARLY, WITH PORT CONGESTION PROBLEMS IN PORT SUDAN, MANY ITEMS WOULD HAVE TO BE AIR SHIPPED. ALSO, EMBASSY WOULD REQUIRE EXPERIENCED EXHIBITION DIRECTOR TDY FOR FOUR-FINVE MONTHS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: ON BALANCE, EMBASSY BELIEVES TRADE PROMOTION AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS OUTWEIGH ANTICIPATED LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS. RECOGNIZE THIS EXHIBITION WILL REQUIRE DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY AND INGENUITY. BELIEVE SUCCESS MORE LIKELY THROUGH CLOSE USIA/USDOC COOPERATION. ASSUMING DEPT APPROVES US PARTICIPATION IN EXHIBITION, REQUEST AUTHORIZATION REPLY POSITIVELY TO GOS INVITATION. EMBASSY WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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THEN SUBMIT MORE DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS RE SIZE AND CHARACTER OF US EXHIBIT. EXHIBITION LAYOUT AND SCHEMATICS OF EXHIBITION SYSTEM ARE BEING POUCHED USDOC. BREWER

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